REPORT OF THE

NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION

3-7 JUNE 2002
TÓRSHAVN, FAROE ISLANDS

Chairman:	Mr Pierre Tremblay (Canada)
Vice-Chairman:	Dr Andrew Rosenberg (USA)
Rapporteur:	Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA)
Secretary:	Dr Malcolm Windsor

NAC(02)11

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Report of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization 3-7 June 2002, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The Chairman, Mr Pierre Tremblay (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

1.2 In accordance with the newly agreed procedure, the Chairman sought opening comments from the members of the North American Commission (NAC) as well as observers. The representatives of Canada and the United States noted that they were looking forward to productive discussions. The representative of United States underscored the importance of the collaborative relationship between the United States and Canada, especially as regards research. The representative of the United States introduced two new U.S. Commissioners, Steve Gephard and George Lapointe. The NAC warmly welcomed the participation of the new U.S. Commissioners.

1.3 Mr Bill Taylor of the Atlantic Salmon Federation presented a statement to the NAC on behalf of all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) present. The NGO statement is attached as Annex 1.

1.4 A list of participants at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Council and the Commissions of NASCO is included on page 255 of this document.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The agenda, NAC(02)10 (Annex 2), was adopted without amendment.

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

3.1 Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (United States) served as Rapporteur.

4. Election of Officers

4.1 Mr Pierre Tremblay was re-elected as Chairman and Mr George Lapointe was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman for the next two-year period (2002-2004).

5. Review of the 2001 Fishery and ACFM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

5.1 The Chairman of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), Mr Tore Jakobsen, reviewed the 2001 fisheries in the NAC area and presented the scientific advice relevant to the Commission, CNL(02)10. The ACFM report from ICES, which

contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page 155 of this document. The presentation overheads are contained in document CNL(02)43.

5.2 The representatives of Canada and the United States complimented the ACFM Chairman on his presentation. The representative of Canada commented that the absence of data from Labrador was negatively affecting the assessment model. He noted that actions have been taken by Canada to address this by increasing the monitoring in Labrador. He noted with concern that, at present, the confidence limits around the model results were quite large. He also noted that there was a need to reconsider the risk neutral approach to the management of salmon fisheries given the possible consequences to the stocks if management objectives are not achieved.

6. Review and Discussion of the 2002 Canadian and US Salmon Management Measures as they relate to the Mandate of the Commission and to the Findings of the ACFM Report from ICES

6.1 A representative of the United States presented a report on the U.S. Atlantic salmon management and research activities in 2001, NAC(02)6 (Annex 3). She highlighted that there were no documented returns to two of the eight rivers listed in 2000 on the U.S. Endangered Species Act. She also noted collaborative work with Canada to track ultrasonically tagged smolts as they exited U.S. waters and migrated through the Bay of Fundy towards the Gulf of Maine. She commented that such work is an excellent example of international cooperation taking place consistent with the objectives of the newly established International Cooperative Salmon Research Board.

6.2 The representative of Canada presented a report reviewing Canada's Atlantic salmon management measures, by region, for 2002, NAC(02)7 (Annex 4). The NAC took note of the extensive actions taken by Canada to conserve and manage Atlantic salmon. No questions concerning the presentation were raised.

7. Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Work of the Commission

7.1 The representative of Canada reported that Canada was piloting the use of the precautionary approach decision structure for fisheries management on several rivers. While Canada's current fisheries management approach does not follow completely the decision structure, he noted that the approach is based on risk assessment. In addition, he stated that Canada intends to incorporate the decision structure fully in the future.

7.2 A representative of the United States reminded the NAC that there are no fisheries left in the United States to which the decision structure can be applied. She commented that the listing of Atlantic salmon populations on the U.S. Endangered Species Act was inherently precautionary and highlighted the special actions that must be taken to ensure the survivability of the resource, such as the development and implementation of recovery plans.

8. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

8.1 The Secretary introduced document NAC(02)4 (Annex 5), which provides catch and other information on St. Pierre and Miquelon's mixed stock Atlantic salmon fishery. The reported catch for 2001 was 2.155 t, which represents a slight decrease from the previous three-year period but is higher than the 15-year mean catch of approximately 2 t. In addition, the number of licenses issued for participation in the salmon fishery increased from 43 in 2000 to 52 in 2001.

8.2 The Commission also took note of Council document CNL(02)26, which provided background information on the generally unsuccessful efforts of NASCO to engage France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) on Atlantic salmon issues.

8.3 The representatives of Canada and the United States reported on their respective bilateral efforts to seek enhanced cooperation from France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), none of which had been very successful.

8.4 The Parties expressed increasing frustration with the lack of attention by and response from France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) on these matters, particularly as regards efforts to establish a multilateral scientific sampling program. The Parties stressed the need to find more effective means to engage France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) as such cooperation would be in the interest of all Parties and of the resource. The NAC stressed that NASCO's Contracting Parties should use all means and influences at their disposal to encourage France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to improve its cooperation with NASCO. The NAC also noted the relevance of, and endorsed the provisions of, various international instruments that make it incumbent upon countries that are not members of the relevant regional fishery management organization to cooperate with that organization.

8.5 Because of the importance of this issue, the NAC developed the "NASCO Resolution Concerning Cooperation with St. Pierre and Miquelon", NAC(02)9, and agreed to forward it to the Council with a recommendation that it be adopted.

9. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

9.1 Ms Mary Colligan, Co-Chair of the Scientific Working Group on Salmonid Introductions and Transfers, presented a report on the activities of the Working Group in 2001/2002, NAC(02)8 (Annex 6).

9.2 The representative of Canada noted that Canada has adopted a policy entitled "National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms," which incorporates risk assessment and risk management processes to assist in making decisions on introductions and transfers. This Code was developed by and has the support of federal, provincial and territorial governments, and stakeholders and is being applied to govern intentional introductions and transfers. The objectives of the Canadian National Code are consistent with the objectives and intent of the NAC Protocols. It provides a process of sound and consistent scientific criteria to evaluate and facilitate the safe movement of all live aquatic organisms in an environmentally sustainable manner. Canada would like to continue the process to modify the 1994 NAC Protocols, taking into consideration its National Code.

9.3 The representative of Canada further noted that Canada will engage in a public and private sector review of the NAC Protocols in light of the recent adoption of a National Code. It is Canada's intent to provide a draft document to the United States as soon as possible for their consideration. Canada will also provide the United States with its National Code to apprise them of the process adopted by Canada.

9.4 Finally, the representative of Canada noted that Canada's application of its National Code could result in some deviations from the existing NAC Protocols. Canada will consult with the United States with respect to any deviation from the existing NAC Protocols that may affect or impact on the U.S. Atlantic salmon resource.

9.5 The representative of the United States underscored the interest of the United States in consulting with Canada on issues surrounding the NAC Protocols since they affect both countries. He also stressed that the consultation process should occur as soon as possible to allow time for the United States to complete its public consultation process. He indicated the interest of the United States in completing consultations by the spring 2003 so that the revised NAC Protocols would be available for review by the SCPA in March 2003 and eligible for consideration and possible adoption at the June 2003 NASCO meeting.

9.6 The representative of Canada requested that the United States similarly consult with Canada on any activity within the United States that deviates from the existing NAC Protocols. The representative of the United States fully concurred with this request.

9.7 Regarding fish health management, the representative of Canada reported that the Government of Canada, in partnership with provincial governments and industry associations, is developing a National Aquatic Animal Health Program, which will provide a framework for aquatic animal health in Canada. The Province of New Brunswick is managing ISA through a Fish Health Surveillance Program, which includes mandatory veterinarian visits to each farm, monitoring and testing and the eradication of ISA in positive cages by Ministerial Order. New Brunswick has been working collaboratively with the government and industry in Maine with respect to ISA management in the region.

9.8 The representative of Canada also noted that containment codes are in place in Canada as reported at the 2002 Liaison Group Meeting in Westport, Ireland.

9.9 The representative of the United States commended Canada for the actions it is taking regarding fish health management.

10. Impacts of Acid Rain on Salmon

10.1 The Chairman reminded the Commission that Canada had agreed at the 2001 NAC meeting to contact the Council on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) established under the North American Free Trade Agreement concerning the issue of acid rain and its effects on Atlantic salmon.

10.2 The representative of Canada noted that acid rain was a continuing problem for Atlantic salmon, that data on this issue had been provided in the past but that Canada had not

contacted CEC about the matter. Instead, he proposed liaising with Norway about possible solutions given the efforts that country has made to address a similar problem.

10.3 The representative of the United States noted that most rivers of the Atlantic coast and southern uplands of Nova Scotia are significantly acidified (as high as pH 4.3) and that many rivers are extirpated of salmon populations. He commented that significant attention was paid to the issue of acid rain in the 1980s. When Canada and the United States signed an accord in 1990, the issue faded from prominence which resulted in the erroneous perception that the problem of acid rain has been solved. While some progress has been achieved, the acid rain problem has not been resolved; it remains a problem for wild Atlantic salmon.

10.4 Given the importance of this issue, the representative of the United States suggested that the U.S. and Canada endeavour to meet intersessionally to consider the causes, effects, and mitigation options of acid rain *vis-a-vis* Atlantic salmon. The representative of Canada concurred with this suggestion. The Parties agreed to report back to the 2003 NAC meeting on the results of the bilateral consultations and to consider at that time possible future actions that could be taken to begin to address this problem.

11. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery

11.1 The representative of Canada briefly reviewed Canada's sampling efforts in Labrador, noting that $500,000 Canadian was being spent on this research. He noted that there had been lapses in the Labrador sampling effort in previous years leading to data gaps.

11.2 The representative of the United States commended Canada for its efforts to improve sampling in Labrador, data from which are essential for the effective functioning of the scientific model that predicts pre-fishery abundance for the West Greenland fishery.

12. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

12.1 The Chairman announced that the winner of the Commission's prize of $1,500 was Mr Joseph P Cook, Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada. The winning tag was of Canadian origin. The tag was applied to a one-sea-winter salmon on 9 July 2001 at the mouth of the Southwest Miramichi River. It was recaptured on 15 July 2001 in the Falls Pool on the Sevogle River, a tributary of the Northwest Miramichi River. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

13. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

13.1 The Commission reviewed the relevant section of document SSC(02)2 and agreed to recommend it to the Council as part of the annual request to ICES for scientific advice. The request to ICES as agreed by the Council, CNL(02)51, is contained in Annex 7.

13.2 The Commission also formally recognized and endorsed the appointment of Julia Barrow (Canada) to the Standing Scientific Committee.

14. Other Business

14.1 The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the members of the Commission for an efficient and productive meeting. He thanked the NASCO Secretariat and the Rapporteur for their excellent support at the meeting. He also thanked the Government of the Faroe Islands for hosting the meeting.

14.2 There was no other business.

15. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

15.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at the time and place of the Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Council, 2-6 June 2003.

16. Consideration of the Report of the Meeting

16.1 The Commission agreed a report of the meeting, NAC(02)11.

Note: The annexes mentioned above begin on page 19, following the French translation of the report of the meeting. A list of North American Commission papers is included on page 49 of this document.

NAC(02)11

Compte rendu de la Dix-neuvième réunion annuelle de la Commission Nord-Américaine de l'Organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord, 3-7 juin 2002, Tórshavn, Îles Féroé

1. Séance d'ouverture

1.1 Le Président, M. Pierre Tremblay (Canada), a ouvert la réunion et souhaité la bienvenue aux délégués.

1.2 Conformément à la nouvelle procédure, adoptée récemment, le Président a invité les membres de la Commission Nord-Américaine et les observateurs à offrir leurs commentaires d'ouverture. Les représentants du Canada et des Etats-Unis ont indiqué qu'ils se réjouissaient à la perspective de débats productifs. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a souligné combien l'esprit de coopération qui existait entre les Etats-Unis et le Canada était important, surtout dans le domaine de la recherche. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a présenté deux nouveaux membres américains de la Commission, Messieurs Steve Gephard et George Lapointe. La CNA a accueilli chaleureusement la participation de ces nouveaux membres.

1.3 M. Bill Taylor, de la Fédération du Saumon Atlantique, a prononcé une déclaration au nom de l'ensemble des organisations non gouvernementales présentes (ONG). Cette déclaration est jointe en tant qu'annexe 1.

1.4 Une liste des participants à la Dix-neuvième réunion annuelle du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN figure à la page 255 de ce document.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

2.1 L'ordre du jour, NAC(02)10 (annexe 2), a été adopté sans modification.

3. Nomination d'un Rapporteur

3.1 Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (Etats-Unis) a rempli le rôle de Rapporteur.

4. Election des membres du comité directeur

4.1 M. Pierre Tremblay a été réélu Président et M. George Lapointe a été élu Vice-Président, pour un mandant de deux ans (2002-2004).

5. Examen de la pêcherie de 2001 et rapport du CCGP du CIEM sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

5.1 Le Président du Comité Consultatif sur la Gestion des Pêcheries (CCGP) du CIEM, M. Tore Jakobsen, a passé en revue les activités de pêche effectuées en 2001 au sein de la zone de la Commission Nord-Américaine (CNA) et a présenté les recommandations

scientifiques pertinentes à la Commission (CNL(02)10). Le rapport du CCGP du CIEM, qui regroupe les recommandations scientifiques intéressant l'ensemble des Commissions, figure à la page 155 de ce document. Le document CNL(02)43 regroupe les diapositives projetées au cours de la présentation.

5.2 Les représentants du Canada et des Etats-Unis ont offert leurs compliments au Président du CCGP pour sa présentation. Le représentant du Canada a fait remarquer que l'absence de données sur le Labrador avait un effet négatif sur le modèle d'évaluation. Il a noté toutefois que des mesures avaient été prises par le Canada pour résoudre cette question, mesures qui consistaient à accroître la surveillance au Labrador. Il a noté avec inquiétude que les résultats du modèle n'inspiraient pour le moment que peu de confiance. Il a également indiqué qu'il y avait lieu de réexaminer l'utilisation d'une approche neutre en termes de risque, dans le cadre de la gestion des pêcheries de saumon, étant donné les conséquences qu'il pourrait y avoir sur les stocks si les objectifs de gestion n'étaient pas atteints.

6. Examen et discussion des mesures de gestion du saumon proposées pour l'an 2002 par le Canada et les Etats-Unis dans le cadre du mandat de la Commission et des conclusions offertes par le rapport du CCGP du CIEM

6.1 Un représentant des Etats-Unis a présenté un rapport sur la gestion du saumon atlantique des Etats-Unis en 2001 et les activités de recherche effectuées cette année, NAC(02)6 (annexe 3). Elle a souligné qu'il n'y avait eu aucun renvoi d'informations sur deux des huit rivières figurant en 2000 sur la liste des espèces menacées d'extinction, conformément à la loi régissant cette question (*U.S. Endangered Species Act*). Elle a également noté le travail de pistage entrepris en coopération avec le Canada. Ce travail consistait à suivre par ultrason le parcours des smolts bagués, alors qu'ils quittaient les eaux américaines et migraient vers le Golfe du Maine en passant par la baie de Fundy. Elle a indiqué que ce type de travail représentait un exemple concret de coopération internationale qui s'inscrivait parfaitement dans le cadre des objectifs de la nouvelle Commission chargée de la recherche internationale sur le saumon menée dans un esprit de coopération.

6.2 Le représentant du Canada a présenté un rapport qui passait en revue les différentes mesures de gestion du saumon atlantique proposées pour 2002 par le Canada, pour chacune des régions du pays, NAC(02)7 (annexe 4). La CNA a pris acte de l'ampleur des mesures prises par le Canada pour conserver et gérer le saumon atlantique. La présentation du Canada n'a soulevé aucune question.

7. Application de l'approche préventive au travail de la Commission

7.1 Le représentant du Canada a déclaré que la Structure de décisions à prendre, à titre de prévention, dans la gestion de pêcheries était au banc d'essai au Canada dans plusieurs rivières. Bien que l'approche actuelle de gestion des pêcheries du pays ne suive pas complètement la dite structure de décisions, cette approche reposait, à son avis, sur une évaluation des risques. De plus, il a déclaré que le Canada avait l'intention, à l'avenir, d'adopter complètement cette Structure de décisions.

7.2 Un représentant des Etats-Unis a rappelé à la Commission qu'il n'existait plus de pêcheries aux Etats-Unis auxquelles cette Structure de décisions pourrait s'appliquer. Elle a fait remarquer que l'ajout des populations de saumons atlantiques à la liste des espèces menacées d'extinction, conformément à la loi régissant cette question (*U.S. Endangered Species Act*) était une mesure préventive en soi. Elle a par ailleurs souligné les mesures particulières qui devaient être prises pour garantir la survie de la ressource, telles que la mise au point et la mise en application de programmes de rétablissement.

8. Pêcheries de saumons à Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

8.1 Le Secrétaire a présenté le document NAC(02)4 (annexe 5), qui fournit les statistiques de captures et autres informations sur la pêcherie de saumons atlantiques à stock mixte de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon. Saint-Pierre et Miquelon avait déclaré une récolte de 2,155 tonnes de saumons atlantiques en 2001. Ce niveau de récolte marquait une très légère diminution par rapport aux niveaux des trois dernières années. Il dépassait toutefois la moyenne des niveaux de captures des quinze dernières années, estimée à environ 2 t. De plus, le nombre de permis, octroyés pour participer à la pêche au saumon, avait augmenté de 43 en 2000 à 52 en 2001.

8.2 La Commission a également pris acte du document du Conseil, CNL(02)26, qui apportait des renseignements sur le contexte des efforts réalisés par l'OCSAN, et qui s'étaient avérés en général improductifs, pour faire participer la France (pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) aux questions du saumon atlantique.

8.3 Les représentants du Canada et des Etats-Unis ont dressé un rapport sur leurs efforts bilatéraux respectifs quant à cette question. Leur recherche d'une plus grande coopération de la France (pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) était en grande partie restée peu productive.

8.4 Les Parties ont exprimé un sentiment grandissant de frustration quant au manque d'attention et de réponse de la France (pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) sur ces questions, surtout en ce qui concernait les efforts déployés en vue d'établir un programme d'échantillonnage scientifique multilatéral. Les Parties ont souligné la nécessité de trouver des moyens plus efficaces pour retenir l'attention de la France (pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) dont la coopération serait, en effet, dans l'intérêt de toutes les Parties et de la ressource. La CNA a signalé qu'il incombait aux Parties signataires de l'OCSAN d'employer tous les moyens et toutes les formes d'influence disponibles pour encourager la France (pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) à améliorer sa coopération avec l'OCSAN. La CNA a également noté la pertinence de plusieurs instruments internationaux dont elle avait adopté les termes, instruments par lesquels il incombait à chaque pays non-membre d'une organisation pertinente de gestion de pêcherie régionale de coopérer avec cette dite organisation.

8.5 Vu l'importance de cette question, la CNA a mis au point la « Résolution de l'OCSAN concernant la coopération avec Saint-Pierre et Miquelon », NAC(02)9. La CNA a de plus convenu d'en soumettre le texte au Conseil, recommandant qu'il soit adopté.

9. Introductions et transferts de salmonidés

9.1 Ms Mary Colligan, Vice-président du Groupe de travail scientifique sur les introductions et transferts de salmonidés, a présenté un compte rendu sur les activités du groupe en 2001/2002, NAC(02)8 (annexe 6).

9.2 Le représentant du Canada a indiqué que le Canada avait adopté une politique intitulée « Code national concernant les introductions et transferts d'organismes aquatiques ». Ce code comportait une évaluation des risques et des procédures de gestion des risques en vue de faciliter la prise de décisions quant aux introductions et transferts. Il avait été élaboré et approuvé par les autorités fédérales, provinciales et territoriales ainsi que par les dépositaires d'enjeux. Le code avait été mis en application afin de contrôler les introductions et transferts intentionnels. L'objet du Code national canadien était cohérent avec les objectifs et intention des protocoles de la CNA. Il définissait une procédure basée sur des critères scientifiques sûrs et cohérents, permettant d'évaluer et de faciliter les mouvements sûrs de tous les organismes aquatiques vivants, et ce d'une façon durable du point de vue de l'environnement. Le Canada aimerait continuer la procédure de modification des protocoles de la CNA de 1994, de façon à ce que ceux-ci tiennent compte du Code national du Canada.

9.3 Le représentant du Canada a par ailleurs indiqué que le Canada allait amorcer une procédure de révision des protocoles de la CNA par les secteurs public et privé, à la lumière de la récente adoption d'un Code national. Il était dans l'intention du Canada de fournir un avant projet aux Etats-Unis, pour leur étude et dans les plus brefs délais. Le Canada fournira également aux Etats-Unis une copie du Code National afin de les instruire de la procédure adoptée par le Canada.

9.4 Enfin, le représentant du Canada a fait remarquer que l'application par le Canada du Code National pourrait entraîner quelques déviations des protocoles actuels de la CNA. Le Canada consultera les Etats-Unis à propos de toute possibilité d'écart des protocoles actuels de la CNA qui pourrait affecter ou avoir des conséquences fâcheuses sur la ressource de saumons atlantiques des Etats-Unis.

9.5 Le représentant des Etats-Unis a précisé combien les Etats-Unis seraient intéressés à débattre des questions qui avaient trait aux protocoles de la CNA avec le Canada, puisque ces questions concernaient les deux pays. Il a également recommandé que le processus de consultation commence aussi tôt que possible de façon à permettre aux Etats-Unis d'achever leur propre procédure de consultation publique. Aussi a-t-il indiqué l'intérêt des Etats-Unis à terminer les consultations d'ici le printemps 2003. Le texte amendé des protocoles de la CNA serait ainsi disponible pour une révision par le Comité permanent chargé de l'approche préventive (CPAP) au mois de mars 2003 et prêt à être étudié et potentiellement adopté lors de la réunion de l'OCSAN en juin 2003.

9.6 Le représentant du Canada a demandé que les Etats-Unis fassent de même et consultent le Canada à propos de toute activité ayant lieu aux Etats-Unis qui dévirait des protocoles actuels de la CNA. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a entièrement accepté cette demande.

9.7 En ce qui concernait la gestion de la santé des poissons, le représentant du Canada a déclaré que les autorités du Canada, en partenariat avec les autorités provinciales et les associations de ce secteur, étaient en train de mettre au point un programme national sur la santé des animaux aquatiques. Ce programme servira de guide sur la question de

la santé des animaux aquatiques au Canada. La Province du Nouveau-Brunswick contrôlait la maladie d'anémie infectieuse du saumon (AIS) par l'intermédiaire d'un Programme de contrôle de la santé des poissons. Ce programme comprenait, par ordre du ministre, des visites vétérinaires obligatoires dans chaque élevage, le contrôle, l'identification et la suppression de l'AIS des cages dites « contaminées ». Le Nouveau-Brunswick avait œuvré en collaboration avec les autorités gouvernementales et les représentants du secteur dans le Maine en ce qui concernait le contrôle de cette maladie dans la région.

9.8 Le représentant du Canada a également indiqué que, conformément à ce qui avait été rapporté lors de la réunion du groupe de liaison de 2002 à Westport en Irlande, le Canada appliquait des codes de confinement.

9.9 Le représentant des Etats-Unis a félicité le Canada pour les mesures prises par le pays à propos de la gestion de la santé des poissons.

10. Effets nuisibles des pluies acides sur le saumon

10.1 Le Président a rappelé, qu'au cours de la réunion de 2001 de la CNA, le représentant du Canada avait convenu de contacter le Comité chargé de la coopération en matière des questions environnementales (*Committee on Environmental Cooperation (CEC)*), contrôlé par l'Accord de libre-échange nord-américain (ALENA), à propos de la question des pluies acides et de leurs effets sur le saumon atlantique.

10.2 Le représentant du Canada a indiqué que les pluies acides demeuraient un problème pour le saumon atlantique, que des informations sur cette question avaient été fournies dans le passé mais que le Canada n'avait pas contacté le CEC à ce sujet. Au lieu de ceci, il proposait de se mettre en rapport avec la Norvège pour examiner diverses solutions possibles à ce problème, vu les efforts que ce pays avait réalisés pour faire face à une situation semblable.

10.3 Le représentant des Etats-Unis a fait remarquer que la majorité des cours d'eau de la côte atlantique et des hautes terres du sud de la Nouvelle-Ecosse étaient très acidifiés (avec un pH s'élevant jusqu'à 4,3) et que des populations de saumons avaient été complètement éradiquées de plusieurs cours d'eau. Il a indiqué que la question des pluies acides avait attiré une très grande attention dans les années 1980. Lorsque le Canada et les Etats-Unis signèrent un accord en 1990, cette question perdit de l'importance graduellement. Ceci donna lieu à une perception erronée que le problème des pluies acides avait été résolu. Or, même si des progrès avaient été réalisés, le problème n'a pas été résolu et continuait à être un problème pour le saumon atlantique sauvage.

10.4 Etant donné l'importance de cette question, le représentant des Etats-Unis a suggéré que les Etats-Unis et le Canada essaient d'organiser une réunion d'intersession afin d'étudier les causes des pluies acides et leurs effets sur le saumon atlantique ainsi que les options mitigatives qui pouvaient s'offrir. Le représentant du Canada a accepté cette suggestion. Les Parties ont ainsi convenu de présenter un rapport sur les résultats de ces consultations bilatérales, lors de la réunion de la CNA de 2003. Les Parties ont également convenu d'étudier pendant cette réunion quelles mesures pourraient ensuite être prises pour commencer à résoudre ce problème.

11. Echantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Labrador

11.1 Le représentant du Canada a brièvement passé en revue les activités d'échantillonnage que le pays avait entrepris au Labrador, à un coût de $500 000 canadiens. Il a indiqué qu'il y avait eu des relâchements dans les efforts d'échantillonnage au cours des années précédentes ce qui expliquait les lacunes de données.

11.2 Le représentant des Etats-Unis a loué le Canada pour les efforts réalisés par le pays en vue d'améliorer l'échantillonnage au Labrador. Les informations qui en dérivaient étaient en effet essentielles au bon fonctionnement du modèle scientifique de prévision de l'abondance pré-pèche de la pêcherie du Groenland Occidental.

12. Annonce du prix du Programme d'encouragement au retour des marques

12.1 Le Président a annoncé que M. Joseph P. Cook, de Miramichi, au Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada avait remporté le prix de 1 500 dollars américains de la Commission. La marque récupérée était d'origine canadienne. Elle avait été posée sur un saumon 1HM le 9 juillet 2001, à l'embouchure de la rivière Miramichi Sud-ouest. Le saumon avait été capturé à nouveau le 15 juillet 2001 dans un plan d'eau de la chute de la rivière Sevogle, un affluent de la rivière Miramichi Nord-ouest. La Commission a félicité le gagnant.

13. Recommandations au Conseil en matière de recherches scientifiques dans le cadre de la demande adressée au CIEM

13.1 La Commission a examiné les sections pertinentes du document SSC(02)2 et a convenu de les recommander au Conseil dans le cadre de la demande annuelle de recommandations scientifiques adressée au CIEM. La demande de recommandations scientifiques adressée au CIEM et approuvée par le Conseil, CNL(02)51, se trouve à l'annexe 7.

13.2 La Commission a également reconnu formellement et approuvé la nomination de Julia Barrow (Canada) au Comité scientifique permanent.

14. Divers

14.1 Le Président a exprimé sa gratitude aux membres de la Commission pour une réunion efficace et productive. Il a remercié le Secrétariat de l'OCSAN et le Rapporteur pour leur excellent soutien au cours de la réunion. Il a également remercié les autorités gouvernementales des Iles Féroé pour avoir accueilli la réunion.

14.2 Aucune autre question n'a été traitée.

15. Date et lieu de la prochaine réunion

15.1 La Commission a convenu de tenir sa prochaine réunion en même temps (soit du 2 au 6 juin 2003), et au même endroit que la Vingtième réunion annuelle du Conseil.

16. Examen du compte rendu de la réunion

16.1 La Commission a accepté le compte rendu NAC(02)11 de la réunion.

Note : Une liste des documents de la Commission Nord-Américaine figure à la page 49 de ce document.

ANNEX 1

NGO Joint Opening Statement to the North American Commission

For the first time since NASCO's creation, non-government organizations (NGOs) have the opportunity to address the Opening Sessions of the Commissions. We are grateful to be able to present the concerns and positions of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the World Wildlife Fund on behalf of all NGOs.

We commend the leadership of both the United States and Canada in controlling fisheries for wild Atlantic salmon and urge the same leadership in the application of the Precautionary Approach to control other threats to North American wild Atlantic salmon.

Precautionary Approach and NAC Protocols on Introductions and Transfers

The Precautionary Approach must guide the protocols for the introduction and transfer of salmonids to ensure that conservation and environmental concerns do not take a back seat to the economic gains of industry. We strongly recommend that aquaculture-free zones be implemented to protect wild Atlantic salmon rivers and bays from the negative impacts of fish farming.

Exotic species and European strains of farmed salmon are escaping from aquaculture sites and entering rivers. Escaped rainbow trout are competing and displacing our indigenous and fragile wild Atlantic salmon. This has been documented in a study on the Trout River in Newfoundland conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in cooperation with ASF.

In direct contradiction of the North American Commission's protocols on introductions and transfers, the U.S. government has allowed the use of European strains in salmon farming. Canada does not allow the use of European strains but this has not deterred their showing up on the Magaguadavic River in New Brunswick. The ASF-led study on the interactions between wild and farmed salmon on the Magaguadavic River has found evidence that such strains are present in the river. This is documented in the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management.

Escaped European-strain farmed salmon pose a huge threat to the already endangered wild Atlantic salmon in the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of Maine. The Canadian Government has given assurances that it will not allow the use of European strains in salmon farming. We urge both the U.S. and Canadian Governments to respect the North American Commission's protocols governing introduction and transfers of salmonids and move quickly to remove European strains from the North American salmon farming industry.

Saint Pierre et Miquelon

We seek closure of the St. Pierre et Miquelon commercial salmon fishery and recommend that the Canadian and U.S. Governments make it a priority to approach France and develop a monitoring program. This ocean fishery is believed to intercept wild Atlantic salmon originating in Canada and the United States and we must have important data to guide management measures such as closure. France has reported a harvest of 2.2 tonnes by professional and recreational fishermen in 2001 with no estimate of unreported catch.

Similarly, Canada must ensure that the resident and Aboriginal food fisheries along the coast of Labrador that annually harvest upwards of 7,000 large and small salmon be strictly limited to local consumption. These fisheries detract from the success of Canada's buy-out of commercial nets and weaken our call for closure on the salmon's feeding grounds. These fisheries must be removed from headlands, where they intercept fish destined for a variety of rivers, and managed on a watershed basis ensuring that conservation targets are met.

Management and Assessment

We recognize and are supportive of the decision by the Canadian Government to add the Pinware and Sandhill as Labrador rivers to be assessed in 2002, but there is still a woeful lack of assessment. This results in important decisions being made, such as estimates on the abundance of salmon in the ocean, with insufficient data. Canada must commit to more assessment in Labrador and in the rest of eastern Canada to overcome its poor record of assessing only 15% of our 550 salmon rivers each year.

Acid Rain

We are encouraged that acid rain is on the meeting agenda of the North American Commission. This problem can only be overcome through cooperative action between the U.S. and Canadian Governments. It has been estimated that 85% of acid deposition in Nova Scotia originates from outside the Province, much of it from the United States. Rain more acidic than orange juice continues to fall on Nova Scotia and is affecting 54 rivers on the Province's Atlantic coast. Fourteen of them have entirely lost their Atlantic salmon runs. Much-lauded acid rain programs implemented a decade ago are not working and governments can no longer be complacent.

Acid precipitation will not stop until the Canadian and U.S. government take a leadership role in reducing emissions and mitigating for the damage already done. Acid rain emissions must be cut by 75% to begin recovery of sensitive forests, lakes, and rivers in Nova Scotia.

We hope that the North American Commission will use valuable time at NASCO to achieve real progress on resolving these critical issues of such concern to WWF and ASF and our network of 7 regional councils that include 150 river conservation organizations and 40,000 individuals in eastern Canada and northeastern United States.

ANNEX 2

NAC(02)10

Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission Hotel Foroyar, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands 3-7 June, 2002

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Election of Officers
5. Review of the 2001 Fishery and ACFM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
6. Review and Discussion of the 2002 Canadian and US Salmon Management Measures as they relate to the Mandate of the Commission and to the Findings of the ACFM Report from ICES
7. Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Work of the Commission
8. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries
9. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers
10. Impacts of Acid Rain on Salmon
11. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery
12. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
13. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
14. Other Business
15. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
16. Consideration of the Draft Report of the Meeting

ANNEX 3

North American Commission

NAC(02)6

Report on US Atlantic Salmon Management and Research Activities in 2001

NAC(02)6

Report on US Atlantic Salmon Management and Research Activities in 2001

Stock Enhancement Programs

During 2001, about 15 million juvenile salmon were released into 20 river systems in the US. Most fish released (94.5%) were fry and these were stocked in rivers including the Connecticut, Merrimack, Saco, Penobscot, Dennys, East Machias, Machias, Narraguagus, and Sheepscot Rivers. Parr releases occurred primarily as a by-product of smolt production programs. Hatchery smolts remain an important component of enhancement programs and approximately 570,000 were released in the Penobscot, Merrimack, Connecticut, Saco, Dennys, Pawcatuck and St. Croix Rivers. In addition to juveniles, approximately 7,500 adult salmon were released in US rivers.

Returns

The documented adult salmon returns to US rivers in 2001 were 1,083 fish. This represented less than 4% of the estimated spawner requirement for the US. Most returns were recorded in Maine, with the Penobscot River accounting for 72.6% of all US returns. Overall, 25.8% of the adult returns were 1SW salmon and 74.3% were MSW salmon. Most returns (79%) originated from hatchery smolts and the balance (21%) originated from either natural spawning or hatchery-origin fry and parr.

Sport Fisheries

All fisheries (commercial and recreational) for sea-run Atlantic salmon are closed in US waters. Salmon incidentally caught must be released immediately, alive and uninjured, without being removed from the water. A recreational fishery for excess broodstock occurs in the Merrimack River. In the spring and fall of 2001, nearly 3,000 surplus broodstock were released to support this recreational fishery.

Tagging and Marking Programs

Tagging and marking programs addressed various research and assessment objectives including identification of release life stage and location, movement studies, and growth/survival studies requiring individual identification of fish. Nearly 520,000 salmon released into US waters in 2001 were marked or tagged in some manner. Tag types included: Floy, Carlin, PIT, radio, acoustical, fin clips, fin punches and visual implant elastomer (VIE). In addition, beginning in 1999 all broodstock for the endangered populations in Maine have been PIT tagged and sampled for genetic characterization. This allows for the establishment of genetically marked fry and smolt families, which can be tracked through non-lethal fin samples at various lifestages.

Salmon Habitat Enhancement and Conservation

Salmon habitat enhancement and conservation efforts in New England in 2001 focused on habitat surveys, the development of stream restoration assessment tools, habitat protection projects, and habitat restoration projects including dam removals. These cooperative efforts

have involved state and federal fishery resource agencies, watershed councils, non-government organizations, corporate sponsors, volunteers, and numerous other public and private interest groups. Habitat protection projects in New England have included technical assistance to local conservation groups, federal, state and private funding for land acquisition projects, riparian and stream channel restoration, and state-sponsored fish habitat programs that generate revenues to support salmon habitat enhancement and conservation.

Additional information on habitat protection, conservation and enhancement of salmon habitat is contained in the US paper presented during the Special Session.

Connecticut River Program

In 2001, the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) continued its strong emphasis on hatchery releases, relicensing of hydroelectric projects, and research. In addition, the CRASC devoted increased time to environmental education partnerships, fishway construction, dam removal, habitat restoration and increased federal government support. A total of 40 sea-run Atlantic salmon were documented to return to the Connecticut River watershed. Also in 2001, about 9.6 million juvenile Atlantic salmon (fry and smolt) and 962 adult domestic broodstock were stocked into the Connecticut River. The Connecticut River Salmon Association and the Deerfield/Millers River Chapter of Trout Unlimited carried conservation messages to over 2,000 students in 80 schools. In Vermont, the Connecticut River Salmon Association and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science carried similar conservation messages to more than 300 students in 18 schools. A number of stream habitat restoration projects were carried out in the watershed by the US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, White River Partnership and several non-government organizations. Additional effort is directed at dam removal within the watershed. It is also worth noting that the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission was reauthorized by the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill within the United States.

Merrimack River Program

A total of 83 adult sea-run Atlantic salmon returned to the Merrimack River in 2001. A shift was observed in the proportion of hatchery smolt origin versus fry origin fish in 2001. In 2000, 24 of the 85 fish that returned to the river were from the fry stocking program, whereas 5 of the 83 fish that returned in 2001 were determined to be from the fry stocking program. Approximately 1.7 million juvenile Atlantic salmon were released in the Merrimack River watershed during the period May-June 2001. The Adopt-A-Salmon program completed its eighth year in approximately 100 schools.

Maine Program

Adult Atlantic salmon counts were obtained at fishway trapping facilities on the Androscoggin, Aroostock, Narraguagus, Penobscot, Saco, St. Croix and Union Rivers. Additionally, counts were made at weirs on the Dennys and Pleasant Rivers. The Maine aquaculture industry reared river-specific salmon eggs to maturity and provided 729 pen-reared adults for stocking into the Dennys, Machias and St. Croix Rivers. The summer of 2001 was extremely dry, resulting in river discharges the lowest on record throughout July and August. In addition, drought conditions continued through the fall salmon spawning season, affecting access to spawning areas in entire drainages and many sub-drainages.

Adult returns and redd counts for rivers with Atlantic salmon populations listed under the Federal ESA were as follows: Dennys River 17 naturally reared, 65 aquaculture escapees, 71 redds; East Machias River 3 redds; Machias River 21 redds; Pleasant River 11 naturally reared, 3 redds; Narraguagus River 32 naturally reared, 24 redds; Ducktrap River 0 redds; Sheepscot River 4 redds; and Cove Brook 0 redds. It is possible that some salmon escaped counting facilities and/or some redds were not detected.

A total of 786 adult salmon was captured at the Veazie Dam fishway trapping facility on the Penobscot River, a 47% increase from the 2000 catch of 535 fish. One salmon suspected to be an aquaculture escapee was captured at Veazie dam. A total of 77 salmon, including 58 aquaculture escapees, was captured at the fishway near the head of tide on the St. Croix River. Returns to other Maine Rivers were as follows: Androscoggin River 5 salmon; Saco River 69 salmon; Union River 2 salmon (both aquaculture escapees); and Aroostook River 28 salmon.

In 2001, Atlantic salmon smolt emigration was monitored in the Narraguagus, Pleasant, Penobscot and Sheepscot Rivers from early April until mid-June using rotary-screw traps. Smolt abundance on the Narraguagus was the lowest of the five-year data series with a total estimate of 1,780 smolts for the watershed. In collaboration with Canadian researchers, the movements of ultrasonically tagged smolts from the Dennys River were tracked as they exited the US waters of Cobscook Bay and migrated through the Bay of Fundy on their way to the Gulf of Maine. A post-smolt pair trawl survey was initiated in Penobscot Bay and the Gulf of Maine, detecting post-smolts at 80% of the 61 stations occupied capturing 1,458 post-smolts, including 340 elastomer-marked and fin-clipped smolts and 15 fin-clipped-only smolts.

Other Research and Items of Interest

Following the listing of US populations of Atlantic salmon under the US Endangered Species Act, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) was required to review the data that supported the listing. A thirteen-member panel from across the US and Europe met several times in 2001 to review all available scientific information and review program operations and issues. The NAS issued a report in January 2002 that focused on the genetic makeup of wild salmon populations in Maine. The report concluded "Maine has wild salmon populations in the eight DPS rivers that are as divergent from Canadian populations and from each other as expected among wild salmon populations elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere." A final report addressing management and recovery issues is scheduled to be released in December 2002. The January 2002 Maine Atlantic salmon genetics report can be obtained at:
http://www.nap.edu/books/0309083117/html
while progress on the final report may be viewed at the National Academies website at:
http://www4.nationalacademies.org

The Annual Report of the US Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee, Report Number 14 – 2001 Activities, can be accessed at:
http://www.fws.gov/r5cneafp/atsasscom.html

Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) was detected in US Atlantic salmon netpen sites in Maine in 2001. The first case of ISA in the US was confirmed in Maine on February 15, 2001. The US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service entered into a cooperative ISA control program with the State of Maine to monitor and manage the disease. Indemnification was provided for depopulated aquaculture fish. Approximately $7M was provided to compensate growers for up to 60% of the value of fish destroyed. Between

December 2001 and February 2002, over 1.4 million exposed or infected fish were depopulated under this program. In order to enroll in the program and prior to restocking of any fish into Cobscook Bay, a management plan needs to be agreed. Under this plan half of the Bay can be restocked in 2002 and the remainder in 2003.

ANNEX 4

North American Commission

NAC(02)7

Review of Atlantic Salmon Management Measures for 2002
(tabled by Canada)

NAC(02)7

Review of Atlantic Salmon Management Measures for 2002 (tabled by Canada)

Introduction

The outlook for Atlantic salmon stocks continues to be generally poor throughout Atlantic Canada. There are few areas where returns and spawners are consistently above conservation requirements, other areas where returns are adequate (or close to being so) for conservation, and many areas where there are serious concerns for conservation of the stocks. Low returns are associated with low marine survival.

Management measures are tailored to the needs of specific areas (rivers and watersheds) while striving for an overall precautionary approach.

Aboriginal Food Fishery

Aboriginal food fisheries for Atlantic salmon take place throughout Atlantic Canada and Quebec. Aboriginal fisheries for food, social and ceremonial purposes are permitted after conservation requirements have been addressed, and take precedence over recreational fishing.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans seeks to develop food fishery licences with Aboriginal groups that identify allocations, monitoring system requirements (guardians/logbooks, etc.) and scientific projects such as tagging or gear trials (such as the use of trapnets instead of gillnets), where practical.

The Aboriginal food fishery for Atlantic salmon for both the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) and the Innu Nation in Labrador was approximately 14 tonnes (adjusted for non-reported landings). Neither Aboriginal group reached their assigned quotas for the food fishery. Aboriginal fisheries were managed under communal licences including a monitoring plan assisted by Aboriginal guardians.

For the 2002 season, a communal licence will again be issued to the LIA, with a quota of 10 tonnes. Negotiations concerning a communal licence for the Innu Nation were not successful, but a management plan has been established with a quota of 1,500 salmon and reduced season (June 15 – July 31).

A resident food fishery was implemented in Southern Labrador in 2000. Residents were permitted to retain four salmon as a by-catch in the trout net fishery. Preliminary estimates indicate approximately 5 tonnes were harvested in 2001. The 2002 resident food fishery will be managed as part of the trout and char fisheries, with one licence per household and retention of 4 salmon permitted. Once 4 salmon have been caught, fishers are required to remove their trout nets from the water.

Commercial Fishery

There are no longer any commercial fisheries for Atlantic salmon on Canada's east coast. The last commercial fishery, a small fishery on Quebec's Lower North Shore, concluded in 1999.

Commercial fisheries moratoria in Labrador and insular Newfoundland remain in place indefinitely.

Recreational Fishery

Newfoundland and Labrador

2002 is the first year of a new multi-year (2002-2006) salmon management plan.

The plan features a river classification system for insular Newfoundland which allows different retention limits based on the health of the river in question. These limits range from retention of six grilse on a Class I river to catch and release only on a Class IV river. The retention of MSW salmon is not permitted.

To address declining salmon stocks in 2001, river classifications were adjusted for the 2002 angling season on 49 salmon rivers, resulting in decreased retention limits from four fish to two fish for those rivers. Major rivers along the northeast coast have shown stock decline in 2001, resulting in the Gander and Exploits Rivers being reduced to four fish retention in 2002.

Other key management measures include the mandatory use of barbless hooks on all scheduled salmon rivers, closures-based Environmental Protocols (i.e. low water levels or high water temperatures), as well as selected river closures for the entire season for conservation reasons.

New conservation management measures implemented for the 2001 recreational salmon fishery for southern Labrador will be continued. These measures include the introduction of a river classification system for selected rivers. All rivers being impacted by the construction of the Trans-Labrador Highway will have a class three designation (2 grilse seasonal limit). No retention of large fish (greater than 63cm) is permitted on these rivers. For all other salmon rivers in zones 1 & 2 the seasonal bag limit of three grilse and one large will apply.

Recreational catches totaled 45,986 salmon in 2001 compared to 57,149 in 2000.

Maritimes Region

The Maritimes Region consists of five Salmon Fishing Areas (19, 20, 21, 22 and 23). In 2001, there were no salmon rivers in the Region that achieved spawning requirements. Rivers in these Areas are negatively impacted by acid rain and are generally of low productivity. Given the stock status and the forecast for similar returns in 2002, management options for will again be limited to hook and release angling, fishing for hatchery-released fish, or closures. Angling licence sales have declined in Nova Scotia by 77% within the past decade.

Area 19 was open for hook and release only. In Areas 20 and 21, under a pilot river categorization scheme introduced in 2001 and continuing in 2002, seven rivers were open to hook and release, and five rivers had food fisheries for fin-clipped hatchery grilse. This limited access in Areas 20 and 21 is not expected to contribute to any a further decline in the stocks.

Rivers in the Inner Bay of Fundy portion of Areas 22 and 23 remain closed to salmon fishing (since 1990) and salmon stocks in this area have now been listed as "endangered" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. A gene banking program for Inner Bay of Fundy salmon stocks was initiated in 1998 and work is ongoing with regard to developing a recovery plan for these stocks.

Gulf Region

The Gulf Region consists of four Salmon Fishing Areas (15, 16, 17 and 18). In 2001, the Miramichi River system and Southwest Miramichi River just exceeded conservation requirements, for the first time in five years. The Restigouche River probably met its conservation requirement in 2001, but not in 1999 or 2000. Also, the Margaree River returns were again above the conservation requirements, but at a lower level than in recent years.

Warm water conditions in 2001 led to a high level of incidental mortalities (392 on Miramichi River). In-season fishery closures did occur in the Miramichi system due to warm weather and low water levels in 2001.

Management measures in 2002 are similar to those that were in place for 2001. New Brunswick has implemented a live release Atlantic salmon licence for 2002. The retention of MSW salmon is not permitted.

A multi-year management plan is being developed in conjunction with the Maritimes Region. This plan will feature a river classification system, consultations for which are currently being held with stakeholders.

In 2001, allocations for aboriginal bands on the Miramichi River were 11,000 grilse and 665 salmon. Preliminary estimates of removals were 2,076 grilse and 460 salmon. Allocations for 2002 are still under negotiation.

Quebec

Quebec has developed a multi-year salmon plan which establishes conservation limits and management targets for each river. Where the conservation limit is not met, catch and release fishing only is permitted for large salmon and to some extent for grilse, if the latter contribute more than 10% to the egg deposition to reach to conservation limit for each river. The fishing of MSW salmon is permitted, with restrictions, on rivers where the conservation limit is exceeded.

Since 1984, the reporting of catches is mandatory in Quebec.

Stocks continue to decline, especially on the Upper and Mid North Shore. River survival is being maintained, but at-sea survival is declining. It is expected that 2002 will be relatively poor because the number of grilse in 2001 was low.

ANNEX 5

North American Commission

NAC(02)4

The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

NAC(02)4

The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

1. At its Seventh Annual Meeting the Commission requested the Secretary to pursue efforts to obtain information about the salmon fisheries on St Pierre and Miquelon. In accordance with this request we have contacted the Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche in Paris annually with a view to obtaining information on the salmon fisheries according to the format agreed by the North Atlantic Salmon Working Group (CM1988/Assess:16 and CM1988/M:4).

2. We have now received provisional catch data for 2001 (Annex 1). The official time series of information as provided by the Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche is as follows:

Year	Number	Weight (Tonnes)
1987	442	0.984
1988	813	2.084
1989	971	2.590
1990	884	1.889
1991	573	1.132
1992	1049	2.319
1993	1439	2.943
1994	1656	3.423
1995	364	0.837
1996	670	1.568
1997	644	1.491
1998	-	2.307
1999	-	2.322
2000	-	2.267
2001	-	2.155

3. The breakdown of the catch in 2001 was 1,544kg by "commercial" fishermen and 611kg by recreational fishermen. The Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche has previously advised the Commission that the commercial fishing is conducted by fishermen from communities which are heavily dependent on fishing and that this fishery should more appropriately be described as a subsistence fishery.

4. The catch in 2001 showed a small reduction of 112kg from the catch in 2000, but remains slightly above the fifteen-year mean catch of approximately 2 tonnes. In 2001 there was an increase in the number of licences issued from 43 in 2000 to 52, reversing the trend of annual reductions in the number of licences issued since 1998. The number of licences issued in 2001 was the highest since 1996. The Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche had previously advised the Council that the fishery is managed through effort limitations and had previously highlighted the trend of reductions in the number of fishery licences allocated.

5. In 2000, the Commission adopted a Resolution Concerning the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries, which was subsequently adopted by the Council. Last year the Commission proposed to the Council that, in an effort to improve cooperation with St Pierre and Miquelon and in order to gather much needed scientific information on the fishery, a sampling programme be undertaken at St Pierre and Miquelon in 2002. The Council supported this proposal but despite a visit to the islands by the President and Secretary in October 2001 the French authorities have not been willing to cooperate in the proposed sampling programme, which will not, therefore, take place in 2002. A report on the continuing consultations with France is provided in Council document CNL(02)26.

6. It is clear from the scientific advice from ICES that there is still considerable concern about the status of North American origin salmon with stocks in both Maine and Canada having been listed as 'endangered'. ICES has recommended that there be no exploitation of the 2001 smolt cohort as non-maturing 1SW fish in North America or West Greenland in 2002 or as mature 2SW salmon in North America in 2003. In the light of this information the Commission is asked to consider whether it wishes to take any additional actions or to make any further proposals to the Council in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fisheries.

Secretary
Edinburgh
14 May, 2002

Annex 1 of NAC(02)4

2 page letter of 15/5/02

ANNEX 6

North American Commission

NAC(02)8

Report of Activities – 2001/2002
NAC Scientific Working Group on Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

NAC(02)8

Report of Activities - 2001/2002
NAC Scientific Working Group on Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

Members:

Rex Porter (Canada Co-chair)
Shane O'Neil (Canada)
Gilles Olivier (Canada)
Mary Colligan (USA Co-chair)
Chris Mantzaris (USA)

The Scientific Working Group (SWG) did not formally meet during this reporting period, but rather conducted its business through correspondence.

1. Update of the databases for the inventory of introductions and transfers of salmonids within the NAC area

Information for the inventory of introductions and transfers of salmonids was solicited from federal, state and provincial agencies, but has not been received from all agencies. Therefore, the database has not been updated. The 2001 and 2002 information will be presented at the 2003 Annual meeting of the NAC.

2. Update of the databases for fish disease occurrences within the NAC area

The database of the historic occurrences of fish pathogens in the NAC area has not been updated since the information for 2001 has not been received from all agencies.

Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) disease has been confirmed at pen sites within the Cobscook Bay area of eastern Maine. The first case of ISA in the US was confirmed in Maine on February 15, 2001. The US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service entered into a cooperative ISA control program with the State of Maine to monitor and manage the disease. Indemnification was provided for depopulated aquaculture fish. The sites in one half of Cobscook Bay were permitted to restock in 2002 and the balance will restock in 2003.

3. Update database of numbers Atlantic salmon aquaculture escapees and observations of rainbow trout in Atlantic salmon rivers

The SWG compiled the most recent information available to the Group on occurrences of Atlantic salmon aquaculture escapees and rainbow trout in rivers within Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. It is recognized that the information is incomplete; however an attempt will be made to get a more complete record of historical and current information over the coming year.

In 2001, Atlantic salmon aquaculture escapees were reported in seven (7) rivers in New Brunswick and Maine (Table 1). The greatest numbers were reported in the Magaguadavic River (132), Dennys River (62) and St. Croix River (58), with the escapees representing 75% to 94% of the salmon entering these rivers. ICES (CNL(02)20) reported that four (4) farmed-escaped salmon (two (2) smolts, one (1) post-smolt and one 1 SW adult) captured in the Magaguadavic River were either North American X European hybrids or wholly European in origin. The 1SW and the post-smolt farmed escapees of North American X European hybrid may have originated from the Maine salmon farming industry. However, the smolt escapee of European origin must have originated from one of the commercial hatcheries on the Magaguadavic River. The SWG reiterates its concern that the introduction of European origin strains or European X North American hybrids into wild Atlantic salmon rivers could adversely affect the productivity of wild Atlantic salmon populations.

Rainbow trout, believed to be of aquaculture origin or progeny of aquaculture escapees, were reported from 12 rivers on the west and south coast of Newfoundland in 2001 (Table 2). These fish were either caught by anglers, or captured or observed during scientific surveys. Both male and female rainbow trout were confirmed. A research project conducted on Trout River, western Newfoundland, confirmed that successful reproduction has occurred and at least three year-classes were present. The Scientific Working Group reiterates its concern that if rainbow trout become established, it could negatively impact on the Atlantic salmon resource.

Some information, albeit incomplete, was available on observations of rainbow trout in rivers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia (Table 3). No information was available as to the origin of these fish. In 2001, rainbow trout were reported to have been observed in three (3) rivers in New Brunswick and three (3) rivers in Nova Scotia. The Scientific Working Group will attempt to get a more complete inventory of observations of rainbow trout for the 2003 annual meeting.

4. Canadian National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms

Canada adopted a National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms in January 2002. The Code applies to all aquatic organisms in freshwater and marine habitats. The purpose of the Code is to establish an objective decision-making framework regarding intentional introductions and transfers that is designed to protect aquatic ecosystems while encouraging responsible use of the aquatic resources for the benefit of Canadians. The National Code was developed to minimize the negative impacts of introductions and transfers and, at the same time, permit environmentally sound fisheries resource enhancement and development of aquaculture. The Code ensures that a consistent single standard set of risk assessment and approval procedures is applied across the country. The risk analysis process evaluates the level of risk of adverse ecological, genetic and fish health effects from a proposed introduction and transfer. The Precautionary Approach has been adopted in the Code.

The Canadian National Code states that consultations should take place between neighboring jurisdictions if a proposed introduction, transfer or range extension might impact stocks within a watershed but outside the receiving province.

5. Activities within the US to Improve Conditions for Environmentally Sustainable Aquaculture

In August 2000, representatives from the aquaculture industry and the environmental community began discussions on potential areas of collaboration. A Framework for a Salmon Aquaculture Containment Policy in the State of Maine, May 1, 2001, was developed as a result of these collaborative discussions. The Framework has the goal of developing a mandatory, enforceable Containment Management System (CMS) and endorses a policy of requiring compliance and includes a set of mechanisms to monitor, identify and respond to problems as they appear. There are three main parts to the policy: (1) development of a standard CMS that will serve as a basis for the subsequent development of company-specific CMS plans; (2) the development, testing and implementation of a marking system for all farmed fish; and (3) the development of an escape response plan in the event of an actual escape. Following adoption of this Framework the industry and the environmental community invited the state and federal resource agencies to work with them in implementing the Framework. It was recognized that the participation of the regulatory agencies was essential if the product was to be ultimately used in permitting processes. The work to develop the CMS and also to investigate marking techniques is being conducted under a grant provided to the Maine aquaculture Industry in 2001 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The CMS system is based on a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system, which contains a company specific HACCP plan, a paper trail that documents operational performance, and an auditing system. The standard CMS that is currently being developed for the Maine salmon farming industry is based on the following seven principles:

1) Assessment of the hazards and risks
2) Determination of critical control points
3) Establishment of critical limits and tolerances
4) Establishment of limit monitoring procedures and schedules
5) Establishment of predetermined corrective actions
6) Establishment of record-keeping systems and procedures
7) Establishment of a verification system

Following the completion of the standard CMS, each company will develop an individual specific HACCP plan for one of their sites. This trial HACCP will be completed and audited by the fall of 2002. The lessons learned through this trial will be utilized in developing site-specific plans for the remaining sites, which will be completed by the end of 2002. Company specific CMS's will be audited at least once annually for compliance. The reporting of known escapes would be required. The report of a known escape of a predetermined level will trigger additional audits of the facility. Reported losses and other logged events, required under the standard CMS, will be entered into a database. All sites will be required to implement an inventory control system that maintains records related to numbers of fish at key production points, known or suspected escapes, dead fish removed from pens and known loss of inventories.

The second part of the policy is the development, testing and implementation of a marking system for all farmed fish. In July 2002 a scale-reading workshop is being held and laboratory trials are now ongoing to examine the interaction between different tagging techniques and innoculations. Field trials are in the planning stages.

Discussions to finalize these components are ongoing and on an accelerated timeframe. There are a number of reasons why it is essential that resolution on these issues be reached in the

immediate future. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is in the process of drafting a permit regulating the discharge from all existing facilities, the National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service are conducting a consultation on all existing facilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and there is ongoing litigation related to the operation of some existing facilities. The NMFS and USFWS continue to recommend to the US Army Corps of Engineers that the use of non-North American strain Atlantic salmon in marine cages should be prohibited. Through the ESA consultation process this recommendation can become a binding permit condition. At this time, the NMFS and USFWS are discussing possible compliance schedules with various representatives from the regulatory agencies and aquaculture industry.

Cooperative Funds for the US Aquaculture Industry
The US Department of Commerce has announced the availability of $5 million to promote the continued development of the Atlantic salmon aquaculture industry, by minimizing the potential for negative impacts on wild Atlantic salmon listed under the ESA. A request for proposals for use of these funds was issued in May 2002 and states that acceptable activities include the development and testing of:

(1) More secure cages to reduce farmed fish escapement;
(2) Broodstock strains that grow more quickly, better resist disease, or pose less genetic threat to North American wild salmon stocks;
(3) Improved marks or tags to trace potential escapes of farmed fish;
(4) Vaccines or other methods to prevent the spread of disease between farmed fish and wild fish; and
(5) Improved methods to monitor sea cage integrity and farmed fish disease.

6. Transgenics

The US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) and Aqua Bounty Farms have approached the National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian regulatory agencies to share information preparatory to designing an environmental risk assessment of transgenic salmon. Topics of relevance include the regulatory context, risk management in the regulation of transgenic plants, risks presented by salmon cultivation, changes induced by genetic modification, and risk mitigation and management.

The US FDA has determined that it will regulate transgenic fish as a new animal drug. A drug is defined as any articles intended to affect the structure and function of an animal. The approval process for a new animal drug is rigorous and includes a review of the environmental safety of the drug, its mechanisms of use and its disposal. The US FDA has further determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required. The EA will include an assessment of the potential risks to wild populations of Atlantic salmon, related species, other non-target animals and the habitat and resources on which the species depend. The EA process is currently at the problem formulation stage where all of the issues and concerns that need to be addressed within the EA are identified. Conducting the risk analysis for the EA is expected to take at least one year.

Aqua Bounty Farms' hypothesis is that sterile, all-female stocks of transgenic, growth-enhanced Atlantic salmon produced under quality assured manufacturing practices can be successfully integrated into existing commercial salmon production facilities resulting in less environmental impact than current aquaculture practices. The risk analysis and EA will identify and assess all available information and either confirm or refute this hypothesis. The Harvard

Center for Risk Assessment will be conducting the environmental risk assessment. The following four groups of potential hazards have been identified: ecosystem disruptions, pathogen transfer, genetic disturbance, and competition for environmental resources.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service will remain involved in this process with the US FDA and the applicant to ensure that concerns for wild populations are adequately identified and addressed, including conducting the appropriate section 7 consultation under the ESA. The US has made the FDA aware of the action NASCO has taken on transgenic salmon and the US FDA was also notified separately by the NASCO Secretariat.

Table 1. Known occurrences of Atlantic salmon aquaculture escapees in salmon rivers within the NAC area.

	Number of escapees (escapees as percent of total sample)							Life Stage
River (St/Prov)	Prior to 1990	1990 - 1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
CANADA								
Annapolis (NS)		1			R******	15		MSW
Baddeck (NS)		23 (6)***		5 (3)				1SW & MSW
Bear (NS)	Many angled in early 1990's							1SW & MSW
Big Salmon (NB)	1							1SW & MSW
Conne (NF)		3	10(2)	2(1)	1(>1)	5(2.3)	0	1SW & MSW
Conne (NF)		71						smolt
Dennis (NB)	R*****							1SW & MSW
Digdeguash (NB)	below hatchery					0		juveniles
Gaspereau (NS)		5		1 (4)		1(2)		MSW
Indian Brook (NS)						1		1SW & MSW
LaHave (NS)	1 (<1)	0	0	0				1SW & MSW
Magaguadavic (NB)		2,301	82 (58)	223 (8)	79(77)	30(68)	132(94)	1SW & MSW
Magaguadavic (NB)							35	smolt
Mersey (NS)						1		1SW & MSW
Meteghan (NS)						1		1SW & MSW
Middle (NS)				9 (4)				1SW & MSW
North (NS)		14 (8)***		55 (11)				1SW & MSW
Saint John (NB)		several in 1990, Belle Isle Bay			R******	R******	14	1SW & MSW
Salmon Digby (NS)					2	0		1SW & MSW
St. Croix (NB/ME) *		231	27 (39)	25 (38)	23(64)	30(60)	58(75)	1SW & MSW
Tusket (NS)				2 (<1)				MSW
Waewig (NB)	juveniles below hatchery 1 adult							Juveniles and adults
Stewiacke (NS)		7 (33)	0					MSW
UNITED STATES								
Penobscot River							1(0.1)	
Dennys (ME)**		67	2 (100)	1(100)		29(94)	65(79)	Sexually mature & immature
Narraguagus (ME)		9****	0	0	3 (9)	0	0	
Union (ME)					63(90)*****	6(75)	2(100)	
Other Maine Rivers	Unofficial reports of escapes in various eastern coastal rivers, especially Cobscott Bay area							

* 1994-96 aquaculture fish were estimated to be 13-54% of the run.
** Partial counts in Dennys

Table 2. Known occurrences of rainbow trout observed in Newfoundland rivers, believed to be aquaculture escapees or progeny of aquaculture escapees.

River (St/Prov)	Number of rainbow trout							Life Stage
	Prior to 1990	1990 - 1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Watts Bight Bk (NF)	3							Adult
Western Arm Brook							1	
River of Ponds (NF)	1+	4+*			24	2****	6	Adult
Portland Creek (NF)					1			Adult
Parsons Pond (NF)		1						Adult
Deer Arm Brook							1	Adult
Lomond River							1	
Trout River (NF)	4		1+	1+	1+**	2***	97+	adult+juv
Humber River (NF)					3	1**	1	Adult
Serpentine (NF)	2							Adult
Flat Bay Brook (NF)		1*			2			Adult
Robinsons River (NF)					2			Adult
Crabbes R (NF)						2		immature
La Poila River (NF)					3			Adult
Garia Brook (NF)					3			Adult
Grandys River (NF)					2	3*****	3	Adult
Unnamed Bk (Bay de Vieux)							1	
White Bear River							1+	
White Bear R Estuary							1+	
Grey River (NF)						1		immature
Northwest Bk						3		Adult
Jeddore lake						3		juvenile
Conne River (NF)		157	61	27	21	45	18+	Adult
Little River (NF)		5			1			Adult
Garnish River (NF)				2+				
Long Harbour R (NF)				1+			2	Adult
Grand Bank Bk (NF)				1+				Adult
Lawn Bk (NF)						1		Adult
Holyrood Pond						3		Adult
Biscay Bay Bk (NF)				2				adult

* 1 Male (internally sexed)
** 1 Female (internally sexed)
*** 2 females, immature
**** 1 was a spent female, and 1 was a male
***** 1 was a ripe male

Table 3. Reports of rainbow trout observed in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia rivers. Rainbow trout in some Nova Scotia rivers maybe from directed stocking programs. Table is incomplete

River (St/Prov)	Number of Rainbow trout							Life Stage
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Saint John R (NB)	10	2	1			1	2	
Nashwaak R (NB)		1						
Big Salmon R (NB)						18	8	
Shepody R* (NB)						1		Juvenile
Upper Salmon R (NB)							1	Juvenile
Sutherlands R (NS)			1					
Salmon R (NS)					2 - 4			immature
Mersey R (NS)					2			
Tusket R (NS)					5+			
Middle R (NS)					2		11	adult
North R (NS)					1+			Juveniles
St. Mary's R (NS)					1			Juvenile
River Tillard						1+		
Baddeck R (NS)						8		1adult+Juv
Musquodoboit (NS)							2+	adult
River Philip (NS)							12	~30 cm

* Shepody River has a self-sustaining population of rainbow trout. Rainbow trout angled annually.

ANNEX 7

CNL(02)51

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:

    1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings, including unreported catches by country and catch and release, and worldwide production of farmed and ranched salmon in 2002;
    1.2 report on significant developments which might assist NASCO with the management of salmon stocks;
    1.3 provide long-term projections for stock re-building, focussing on trajectories for restoring stocks to target levels above conservation limits;
    1.4 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2002.

2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:

    2.1 describe the key events of the 2002 fisheries and the status of the stocks; [1]
    2.2 evaluate the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in the last five years have been achieved;
    2.3 further develop the age-specific stock conservation limits where possible based upon individual river stocks;
    2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice, if possible based on a forecast of PFA, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
    2.5 validate the methodology and further refine the estimate of by-catch of salmon post-smolts in pelagic trawl fisheries for mackerel and provide estimates for other pelagic fisheries that may catch salmon; [2]
    2.6 advise on an appropriate methodology to improve knowledge on the distribution and movements of escaped farmed salmon;
    2.7 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:

    3.1 describe the key events of the 2002 fisheries and the status of the stocks; [1]
    3.2 evaluate the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in the last five years have been achieved;
    3.3 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;
    3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
    3.5 provide an analysis of existing biological and/or tag return data, and recommendations for required data collection, to identify the origin of Atlantic salmon caught at St Pierre and Miquelon;
    3.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:

4.1 describe the events of the 2002 fisheries and the status of the stocks; [1, 3]

4.2 evaluate the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in the last five years have been achieved;

4.3 provide information on the origin of Atlantic salmon caught at West Greenland at a finer resolution than continent of origin (river stocks, country or stock complexes);

4.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;

4.5 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the model used to provide catch advice and of the impacts of any changes to the model on the calculated quota; [4]

4.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

Notes:

1. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Any new information on non-catch fishing mortality, of the salmon gear used, and on the by-catch of other species in salmon gear, and of salmon in any new fisheries for other species is also requested.*

2. *With regard to question 2.5, descriptions (gear type; and fishing depth, location and season) should be provided for all pelagic fisheries that may catch salmon post-smolts.*

3. *In response to question 4.1, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.1 and 3.1.*

4. *With regard to question 4.5, "changes to the model" would include the development of any new model.*

ANNEX 8

List of North American Commission Papers

Paper No.	Title
NAC(02)1	Provisional Agenda
NAC(02)2	Draft Agenda
NAC(02)3	Election of Officers
NAC(02)4	The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries
NAC(02)5	Draft Report
NAC(02)6	Report on US Atlantic Salmon Management and Research Activities in 2001
NAC(02)7	Review of the Atlantic Salmon Management Measures for 2002 (tabled by Canada)
NAC(02)8	Report of Activities - 2001/2002: NAC Scientific Working Group on Salmonid Introductions and Transfers
NAC(02)9	NASCO Resolution Concerning Cooperation with St. Pierre and Miquelon
NAC(02)10	Agenda
NAC(02)11	Report of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission

Note: This is a listing of all the Commission papers. Some, but not all, of these papers are included in this report as